CLAIMS

1. A method for performing authentication in a communication system comprising an authentication server (AS), and a user profile store storing user profiles for users of the communication system, the method comprising:

transmitting from the authentication server to the user profile store a request for the user profile of a user;

receiving at the AS a response to the request;

determining whether the response is indicative of an error; and

if the response is indicative of an error, transmitting from the authentication server to the user profile store a message of a type such as to trigger the user profile store to perform a location update procedure in respect of the user.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message is of a type such as to trigger the user profile store to perform the location update and subsequently transmit the user profile of the user to the authentication server.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the user profile store is a user profile store of a GSM network.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the user profile store is a home location register (HLR).

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the user profile store is such as to:

in some circumstances return to the authentication server the user profile of the user in response to the said request; and

in other circumstances return to the authentication server an error message in response to the said request.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the said other circumstances include the user not having been in communication with the network of which the user profile store is a part for a prolonged period.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said request is a message according to the MAP protocol.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the said request is a MAP_RESTORE_DATA message.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message of a type such as to trigger the user profile store to perform a location update procedure in respect of the user is a message according to the MAP protocol.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the said the message of a type such as to trigger the user profile store to perform a location update procedure in respect of the user is a MAP_UPDATE_LOCATION or a MAP_UPDATE_GPRS_LOCATION message.

11. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the authentication server the user profile of the user from the user profile store; and

authenticating credentials of the user by means of the received user profile; and wherein

if the credentials are correctly authenticated the user is granted access to a resource, and otherwise the user is denied access to the resource.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the resource includes access to a network other than the one of which the user profile store is a part.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the network other than the one of which the user profile store is a part is a wireless local area network.

14. An authentication server (AS) for performing authentication in a communication system comprising a user profile store storing user profiles for users of the communication system, the authentication server being arranged to, in order to perform authentication:

transmit from the authentication server to the user profile store a request for the user profile of a user;

receive at the AS a response to the request;

determine whether the response is indicative of an error; and

if the response is indicative of an error, transmit from the authentication server to the user profile store a message of a type such as to trigger the user profile store to perform a location update procedure in respect of the user.

15. A communication system comprising:

a user profile store storing user profiles for users of the communication system; and

an authentication server (AS) for performing authentication in the communication system and being arranged to, in order to perform authentication:

transmit from the authentication server to the user profile store a request for the user profile of a user;

receive at the AS a response to the request;

determine whether the response is indicative of an error; and

if the response is indicative of an error, transmit from the authentication server to the user profile store a message of a type such as to trigger the user profile store to perform a location update procedure in respect of the user.